



The Office of  
Environmental Sustainability

## LIVE GREEN CARD #1: Energy-Saving Tips



### SIMPLY GREEN

- REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE
- Utilize natural lighting
- Turn off all lights when you leave a room
- Turn off electronics (computer, TV, radio, etc.) when not in use
- Unplug appliances from wall when not in use or use a power strip for electronics and turn it off; plugged-in appliances still use energy while in standby mode
- Buy locally, especially food
- Eat less meat
- Drink tap water rather than bottled water
- Cancel unwanted subscriptions and junk-mail
- Carpool
- Keep your car tires properly inflated
- Bike or walk for short trips
- Utilize fans and windows rather than turning on the air conditioning
- Layer on clothing rather than turning up the heat
- Take shorter showers
- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to warm (120 degrees F)
- Air dry dishes and clothes rather than using the drying cycle
- Only run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine
- Use cold water in washing machines
- Regularly clean refrigerator coils and keep the temperature set between 37 and 40 degrees F
- Use a microwave or toaster oven when possible rather than a conventional oven

### SOLIDLY GREEN

- Swap regular light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Put outdoor lights on a wall switch timer
- Choose Energy Star electronics when purchasing new items such as stereos, televisions, etc.
- Find an organization in your area to provide a home energy audit to identify measures for improving energy efficiency
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to be at least 5 degrees F colder in the winter and warmer in the summer when no one is home
- Clean and replace furnace and air conditioning filters regularly
- Caulk and put weather-stripping over any leaks in walls, doors, or windows
- Add insulation to your home to prevent heat loss
- Install storm window plastic sheets if not able to install actual storm windows
- Repair leaking pipes and dripping faucets
- Install showerhead and faucet aerators
- Install a water heater/tank insulation wrap
- Use a manual push-mower rather than a powered lawn mower (and get a free workout!)

Visit:

[www.howardcountymd.gov/OES](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/OES)

for more info.

### SERIOUSLY GREEN

- Buy hybrid cars
- Install solar panels on roof
- Purchase renewable energy from your energy company
- Choose Energy Star label appliances when purchasing new appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, etc.
- Consider replacing your furnace and air conditioner if more than 10 years old with Energy Star systems
- Install high performance dual pane storm windows
- Install low-flush toilets
- Install occupancy sensor lighting
- Install solar tubes to utilize more natural lighting

\*Energy-efficient items may cost more originally, but often save you money in the long run

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When we save energy, we reduce our demand for fossil fuels and the amount of fossil fuels that are burned. When less fossil fuels are burned, we not only save money, but we also lower our carbon dioxide emissions which contribute to global warming and pollution.